Flames Threatening Eclectic Business Section Are Licked

ECLECTIC, (AP) — Flames which threatened to wipe out the main business section of this Macapall County, Alabama town were brought under control early Saturday afternoon.

No one was reported injured. The blaze was instructed mainly to a hardware-furniture store, and an electric office. Eclectic has a population of less than 1,000.

Damages were estimated by the owners at between $120,000 and $130,000.

Teamwork of fire fighters from Eclectic and three nearby cities kept the blaze from spreading to adjacent buildings.

Heaviest damage was to the O. C. Garden Hardware-Furniture Store with an estimated $75,000 stock and $25,000 building damage.

Mayor Jones Shores said the fire started in mid-morning in the office of Dr. W. M. Ausley, where it apparently was caused by some reading from a flexible gas connection.

The Bank of Eclectic next door to the hardware store escaped with minor smoke and water losses.

Firemen were aided by strong pressure from the city's water system and absence of wind which might have fanned the flames along.

Fire trucks from Wetumpka and Callasee were first to arrive. They had water streams on the flames after some difficulty caused by frozen hose.

Montgomery's Asst. Fire Chief R. A. Henderson helped direct the operations after he arrived with volunteers and a pumper truck.

Opponents Phone Rate Hike Given Time To Contest

MONTGOMERY, (AP)— Opponents of a telephone rate increase for 17 Southest Alabama cities have nearly a week in which to state reasons why it shouldn't be allowed.

The Alabama Public Service Commission Friday continued until Nov. 28 a hearing on a rate petition by United Telephone and Telegraph Co.

C. E. Kirk, president of the utility, and a scattering of lawyers interested in the case were absent, leaving ones present for the windup of a technical discussion of the company's needs.

The commission's hearing chamber was jammed with representatives from the communities served by the company when the technical period Thursday.

They apparently were cleared by the conclusion of the testimony and left it up to their attorneys to handle second day.

Consulting engineer A. B. Page gave a statistical summary of the company's operations over the past two years and its need for new revenue.

He said United's maintenance costs have gone up 35 per cent since 1946 and 20 per cent since 1949.

While a dial system, said, for only 8,305 main lines and automatic switching equipment is now in service, thousands of new services must be made for future servicing of these facilities.

The company said its total operating revenues were $1,000,000 for the fiscal year ended Oct. 31, 1950. Expenses that year were $850,337, leaving a net of $149,658 after taxes.

If the new rates are approved the utility anticipates an increase in revenue to $1,309,222, with expenses of $965,858 after depreciation taxes this would give net revenue of $180,364.

Stock Market In Inflationary Rage

NEW YORK, (AP)—The stock market last week raged higher at a speed not exceeded in more than 21 years.

Saturday's market established another new high average price level for 1950-51 that hasn't been topped in more than 20 years.

Saturday the Associated Press average of 60 stocks advanced 40 cents to $96.30, the highest point since Sept. 24, 1930. New high marks for 1950-51 were established five times out of six last week.

The net gain last week in the AP average was $3.30 and it was the ninth straight week that the market had advanced.

Saturday the market also was up with the AP average of 60 stocks 40 cents higher at $96.30, a new high. The volume came to 1,390,000 shares, the same as a week earlier. There were 1,046 individual issues traded of which 485 advanced and 293 declined. There were 110 new highs established, and again there were no new lows.

Packard Motors was the most active stock on the week up 1 2-at 5 3-8. Canadian Pacific which also has large interests in railroads was second most active up 3-4 1 at 27 1-2.

Among other active issues with the net change on the week were Radio Corp. unchanged at 19, Graham-Paige up 11-8 at 4 1-8, Colorado Fuel & Iron up 3-5 8 at 28 1-8, Jones & Laughlin Steel off 1-4 at 30 1-2, New York Central off 1-8 at 24 1-4, U. S. Steel up 1 1-8 at 47 1-2, General Motors up 1 1-8 at 50 3-4, and St. Louis & San Francisco up 2-5 8 at 29 5-8.

The curb market advanced generally Saturday with a volume of 370,000 shares as compared with 270,000 shares a week ago.

The five most active issues during the week all advanced. Pan-Coastal Oil was the most active up 3-4 at 5 3-4, followed by Standard Power & Light up 1-4 at 8, Arkansas Natural Gas "A" up 1-7 8 at 13 3-8, Pantepec Oil up 3-8 at 7 1-8, and Calgary & Edmonton up 1-5 8 at 12 3-8.

War-Inspired Rise In Bond Prices Is Fading

NEW YORK, (AP)—The war-inspired rise in railroad bond prices began fading last week as the rapidly spreading switchmen's strike tied up traffic in every corner of the land.

Prices kept within a narrow range on Saturday with a few rails standing out with better than average gains and many rights. A half dozen Baltimore & Ohio liens added major fractions to recent gains on fair turnover. Capital Airlines was up a point at 19 1-2. Income bonds of Chicago & Eastern Illinois gained a point at 61. Missouri Pacific general 4s advanced 1-2 at 56 1-4. Minneapolis & St. Louis 3 1-2s moved up 1-2 at 67 1-2. Phillips Petroleum convertible 2-3 4s gained a point at 114 3-4.

On the power and light bonds of the St. Louis-San Francisco Standard Oil, NYC Central of Georgia Railroad and New Haven Railroad.

There was no activity in government bonds and changes in the foreign dollar department were minor. A block of 10 Permanentoe 7s changed hands at 37, up 2 points.

Sales of $1,860,000 contrasted with $2,870,000 the previous Saturday.

Most U. S. Treasury bonds ineligible for purchase by commercial banks showed moderate advances during the week.

FRANCIS M. LEMAY

(Continued From Page One)

In announcing the appointment at a news conference, Rayburn referred to Le May as a "very old friend of mine," and voiced regret over the departure of Dickson.

Mr. Lemay, who is widely known in the Muscle Shoals area of Alabama, where he is known as the "Source of De May Landing" by virtue of his ownership of a summer home at Wheeler Dam, started his newspaper career as a reporter for The Florence Times.

Mr. Le May is a native of Russellville, Franklin county, and is also widely known in this section. She is associated with the Washington offices of Sears Roebuck & Company.

TUSCUMBIA'S UTILITIES DIRECTOR Lucian E. Hamlet gets down to business in his new quarters in the Electrical building. Mr. Hamlet's office is centrally located in the right wing of the building convenient to the main business functions of the department.—(Staff Photo.)

Church Declares Itself An "Enemy Of False Miracles"

By FRANK BRUTTO

VATICAN CITY, (AP) — The Roman Catholic church on Saturday again declared itself an enemy of false miracles.

Writing in the official organ of the Vatican, the newspaper Osservatore Romano, Msgr. Alberto Ottaviani, assistant to the Supreme Holy Office, said such miracles are a "grave sin against the Holy Ghost" and contrary to the teachings of the Church.

He declared that the age of faithful is not the time of credulity of visions and prodigious pretext, deceitful, instead, the church, the sacraments and religion.

Msgr. Ottaviani said the church does not want to put down acts that which God does, that is prodigious, but would like to have them to hold the faithful in check. That which comes from God will shine with its own light, he said, and "the sun will do the miracles."

Mr. Mary Arrow Van Hoof, 42-year-old Needan Wis. farm wife of Nebraska, is now standing by the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Lourdes, France, hoping to see the Virgin Mary, even time, between May 28 and Oct. 7 last year.

She said she still is receiving "private visions."

A crowd estimated at 100,000 gathered at her home Aug. 15, when she said her vision appeared for the sixth time. A priest, who was present on Oct. 7 but would not give his name, said he saw "the sun whirl."

COLD WAVE

(Continued From Page One)

current if residents didn't quit using so much trying to keep warm.

Florida's $108,000,000 citrus crop and its abundant-growing vegetable plantings appeared to have escaped serious damage from Friday night's cold. But plummeting temperatures Saturday night posed new perils.

Georgia's $65,000,000 tobacco crop escaped with only some possible delay in transplanting because of frozen plant beds. Northward peach crops of $3,000,000 in Illinois and $4,000,000 in Berrien county, Mich., were pronounced losses.

St. Charles, Mo., experienced community-wide what thousands over the land did as householders. A 100-foot pipeline supplying the towns waterworks froze solid and was only partly thawed by blazing fires built around it. Citizens had to resort to melting snow for water in the emergency.

At the height of cold-ridden floods in Southeastern Kentucky some 4,000 persons were homeless. The Cumberland river was falling, however, removing threats to several towns and permitting many refugees to return home.

In the Ohio, the Ohio river overflowed low-lying roads and neared flood stage at many points.

The first real tree surgeons were foresters appointed by the Romans to care for and protect their trees.

Steadily Worse Shortages Of Goods, Price Hikes Due

By STERLING F. GREEN

WASHINGTON, (AP) — Despite price control, the consumer faces a price rise of another 3 to 4 per cent or more in the next six months, along with steadily worsening shortages of goods.

A steep tax increase is another certain blow, sooner or later. It may hit the consumer twice — by taking more out of his paycheck by withholding, and by adding excise taxes to the things he buys.

As for scarcities, officials have hinted that by the second half of this year defense plants may be taking 50 per cent of the critical materials. Output of autos, radios, washers and home appliances will dip — probably not by half, but enough to hurt.

The pinch, in other words, is just beginning.

Time was made plain when the joint Chiefs of Staff fixed their $48,000,000,000 defense spending goal a few days ago.

The billions represent planned spending and contract letting between July 1 and the middle of 1952, to accomplish this three-fold strategic aim:

1. Raise fresh arms equip supply and maintain a fighting force capable of waging almost war for one year.

2. Bring industry to a state of readiness which will permit full scale war production before that year of grace expires.

3. And meanwhile maintain the forces in Korea, perfect the home defense by air and sea, build up the National Guard and Reserves, and arm our Allies overseas.

This means a rain of inflationary federal dollars beating against a price fixing structure which admittedly is leaky to start with.

Some Economic Stabilization Agency (ESA) officials have predicted privately that the cost of living will move up 3 or 4 per cent because of exemptions, loopholes and wage-increase factors in the stabilization policy adopted.

Other federal economists, also unquotable by name, set the probable rise even higher.

Yet with fair unanimity, officials discount the likelihood of consumer rationing on any broad scale. Food is plentiful enough for good diets; goods will be scarce but the average family has obtained its new refrigerator or vacuum cleaner and has bought its recent model car.

And if Congress approves President Truman's proposal to pile $3,000,000,000 in new excise taxes on consumer goods, that will be kind of squeezed out of the luxury market.

Administration officials who pride themselves on judging the mood of Congress predict Mr. Truman probably will get most of his proposed $10,000,000,000 revenue-raising request.

That includes $4,000,000,000 in income taxes, mostly to come from middle and upper income tax payers, and $3,000,000,000 more in corporation levies.

Whether he will get approval of the other $6,000,000,000 needed to balance next year's budget is less certain, these sources say.

But sentiment among officials—Democrats and the Republicans who head nearly all the new defense agencies — favors a strong tax policy to cut down demand and achieve preparedness without piling up new debt.

On the other hand, wage boosts are expected for millions of workers after the Wage Stabilization Board meets at its final formula. Those who haven't had pay increases comparable to those of the auto or steel workers' level, for instance, probably will be permitted to bargain for increases up to that amount.

This will hike production costs.

The numerous food items which haven't reached parity price ceilings are free to rise. And because parity is based on the cost of things farmers buy, parity itself will be moving upward for a time.

Price Stabilizer Michael V. DiSalle said ESA cannot yet stop the upward trend, just slow it down. It's like a car traveling 60 miles an hour, he said; it must be slowed before it can be stopped.

Record Cold Wave Plaguing Alabama "Definitely Past"

BIRMINGHAM, (AP) The record cold wave that has plagued Alabama during the past week is definitely past, the Weather Bureau said Saturday.

It left in its wake at least nine dead and heavy damage from a series of crippling fires.

Temperatures in the low teens were predicted for extreme North Alabama Saturday night but temperatures are expected to rise sharply today. Highs will be 40's or low 50's.

Record lows were reported over the State during the frigid wave. A 12 at Mobile Saturday morning was the coldest reported there since 1899.

Muscle Shoals and Huntsville had the coldest official readings Saturday morning, the temperature going to a down to three above.

There were even lower unofficial readings and the Weather Bureau said it probably did in some sheltered spots.

The mercury rose from an early morning low of 6 at Birmingham to a sunny 40 here in mid afternoon. Tuscaloosa reported a low of 5-6, while Anniston and Gadsden had 7s. Montgomery recorded a 10 to tie an all-time record for the date set in 1917. Dothan had a 13.

At least nine deaths were attributed directly or indirectly to the cold during the week.

Mrs. Mollie Rose, 88-year-old farm woman of near Moulton, Ala., was found dying of exposure in her home Friday. She died shortly after neighbors found her sitting in front of a cold fireplace.

The body of a Negro man, Thomas Conley of nearby Coalburg, was found in a Birmingham alley Friday.

Mrs. Stella Cameron, 66, Tuscaloosa widow, died Friday midnight from burns received when her clothes caught from an open heater Friday.

Two other fire victims were reported. They were Yvonne Dermaus 4-year-old Gadsden Negro girl, who died there Wednesday after falling into an open fireplace at her home, and Joe Gales, Negro, who died Saturday of burns suffered while standing over an open fire at a Mobile junk yard Friday.

Two trainmen were killed by a switch engine at Jasper while they were thawing a frozen switch junction, and two persons died in a highway collision after their car skidded on an icy stretch near Huntsville.

Damage running into the hundreds of thousands of dollars was caused by a series of fires over the State.

Loss estimated at between $120,000 and $135,000 was reported from a blaze that threatened for a while Saturday to wipe out the main business section of Eclectic, little Central Alabama town.

Firemen from neighboring cities helped confine the fire to a hardware-furniture store and a doctor's office. It was believed to have started from gas leaking from a flexible gas connection.

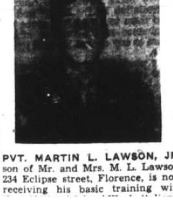
Even heavier loss was listed as the big W. S. Neal high school was razed by flames Friday. School officials said the loss would range up to $300,000.

The fire, blamed on a defective flue, was discovered shortly after pupils had left for the day. The 23-year-old brick building housed classrooms for 450 pupils.

Flames also destroyed a department store in York Friday night. Volunteer firefighters held the blaze in check in 16-degree weather until fire trucks arrived from Meridian, 30 miles away. Amount of the loss was not determined immediately.

A woman's apparel store was destroyed in downtown Decatur, and flames swept through a Huntsville candy company Thursday with damage estimated at $50,000.

Numerous home fires were reported throughout the State during the cold wave.



PVT. MARTIN L. LAWSON, JR., son of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Lawson, 234 Eclipse street, Florence, is now receiving his basic training with the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas. Pvt. Lawson is a member of the Regular Army and entered the service last November. He is a graduate of Florence High School and attended Florence State Teachers College.

Radioactive Snow Is Noted At Wilmington

WILMINGTON, N. C., (AP)—Wilmington's worst snowfall in years brought this port city close to the counter check showed the snow to be "slightly radioactive."

Crews added that the radioactive content of the snow was about equal to that of the dial of a luminous watch. He said that there was not enough reaction to cause alarm or harm.

Weatherman Reuben Frost said that he could not explain the presence of the radioactivity. He added that the storm came from the East.

Prisoners Coming Up For Parole Must Wait

MONTGOMERY, (AP) — Prisoners coming up for parole this month will have to wait another week for the new State Pardon-Parole board to take up their cases.

The board's monthly hearing on parole applications is scheduled Feb. 13.

Secretary L. B. Stephens said since the old board cleaned up the Current docket before the change of Administration, few if any parolees will come through before the hearing.

The board announced restoration of civil rights Friday to Lawrence French, 34, convicted in 1944 on a manslaughter charge in Jefferson county.

He was discharged with time off for good behavior Aug. 19, 1948.

French could not be considered for a full pardon or restoration of civil rights until two years after release from prison or parole custody under the board's regulations.

Wide Discretion Is Given To Governors

MONTGOMERY, (AP) — Alabama chief executives have wide discretion in how they spend money from the Governor's emergency fund, says Atty. Gen. Si Garrett.

He gave his ruling in an advisory opinion requested by State Comptroller John Graves who must approve all State expenditures.

The fund can be used, the Attorney General said, for any purpose which in the Governor's discretion is "a legitimate incidental, extraordinary or contingent expense of State government, for which no appropriation is otherwise made."

The present appropriation is $25,000 a year. Gov. Gordon Persons has said he will ask the Legislature to abolish this fund and perhaps replace it with one designating the money to more specific uses.

Garrett held that "in determining what are legitimate expenditures from the fund, he (the Governor) exercises a discretionary power which, in the absence of fraud, corruption or unfair conduct of the State's business, cannot be restrained or renewed by the court."

"CHINESE BODIES

(Continued From Page One)

the hills around Pyongchang.

There was talk in the United States of what the United Nations forces should do if Communists do not reach the 38th Parallel, but there was no word of future plans from the Tokyo Headquarters of Allied Forces Commander General MacArthur.

A Lake Success comment by a United States delegate to the U. N. indicating that it was not up to MacArthur was well received at his headquarters.

In Tokyo, Assistant Secretary of of the Army Johnson said "it will be up to the United Nations to decide."

However, he made his statement to correspondents before he had seen evening newspapers which quoted Ernest A. Gross, U. S. deputy in the U. N. as saying there had been no decision to stop at the Parallel.

MacArthur's staff officers pointed out that the current drive to the North was not designed to retain ground but to seek out and kill Communist troops.

The officers said that if a decision is made to cross the Han, capture Seoul and drive to the Parallel, 38 that will be another offensive. Seoul is 30 miles South of the Parallel.

In Pusan, President Syngman Rhee told Associated press correspondent Bill Shinn that lukewarm action would only serve to encourage further acts of aggression.

The 75-year-old President stressed that he saw no reason for the U. N. forces to stop at the 38th Parallel.

The stepped-up Red counterattacks South of Seoul seemed to be in line with a broadcast statement by Premier Chou En-Lai of Red China, assailing the aggressor indictment and rejecting a proposed U. N. good-offices committee.

The Premier asserted there would be "no ceasefire" "no negotiations," and "no peaceful settlement."

A briefing officer said the Allies in the Western Front are moving cautiously and digging out the Reds wherever they find them.

"It's slow and tedious work but it's safer in the long run," he said.

NATIONWIDE

(Continued From Page One)

Eastern states.

Containing some exceptions, it applies to second class mail, except newspapers, and all third and fourth class matter; matter of the first class exceeding eight ounces, and parcel post exceeding two pounds. Medicines, drugs and some other vital items were excepted.

W. P. Kennedy, BRT president in Chicago for the contempt hearing, told newsmen he has wired regional BRT officers:

"You must use every method at your command in cooperation with the vice presidents who are working day and night to bring an end to this unauthorized stoppage of work."

These telegrams went out Friday and there was no sign of a back to work trend.

The mediation board in Washington called a new meeting between railroad and union officials for late Saturday (5 p.m. EST).

Thad Scott, Jr., head of the board, asked them to sit down jointly with the board to discuss the strike.

Army quartermaster officers in Chicago said the work stoppage has created "quite a problem" in supplying Army camps with food.

Pittsburgh, Columbus, Buffalo, Minneapolis, Kansas City and Portland, Ore., reported the strike was spreading.

More passenger train schedules were cancelled in Chicago. The New York Central discontinued the last of its suburban service in New York Friday night. This raised the secondary problem of worker absenteeism — perhaps unable to get to their jobs.

Houston and Salt Lake City, however, reported more switchmen worked Saturday than Friday.

Benjamin Fairless, president of the U. S. Steel Corp., said in Washington that the strike was beginning to have a "serious effect upon the

Lynching Said No Longer Barometer Of Race Conflict

ATLANTA, (AP)—The Southern Regional Council took a look Saturday at a year of mob killings and decided that lynching is no longer a barometer of race conflict.

The reason, it explained, is that lynch victims are now almost as likely to be white as Negro. Race violence, it added, now more often takes the form of bombing Negro homes, abductions, floggings, shootings "in the course of arrest" and other forms of terrorism.

The council is a voluntary organization which has as a principal aim the improvement of race relations. It accepted Tuskegee Institute's report of only two 1950 lynchings and found encouragement that convictions resulted from both offenses.

It also found welcome the news that law officers foiled seven attempts at lynchings.

The council accepted as authentic lynchings the death of a white man, a rolling store operator, at Pell City, Ala., Feb. 18, and of a Negro, Clinton Walker, 40, a laborer, near Gay, Ga., about Aug. 18.

It recounted that two men were sentenced to life imprisonment and one to three to five years in Meriwether county for Walker's death. It added that one man committed suicide, one got five years in prison and three others await trial as a result of the Pell City death.

arranged to set up an emergency Office of the Petroleum Administration for defense at Chicago to cope with a threatened oil shortage in the North Central states.

The BRT members are seeking a 40-hour work week at 48 hours pay and change in certain working rules.

Kennedy flew to Washington to attend the mediation session after Judge Igoe recessed the contempt hearing until Monday.

The union chief said word of the new mediation session was "good news."

The union may be required to show cause Wednesday why it should not be held in contempt for the present strike.

So far, the hearing has been devoted solely to a virtually identical walkout of 10,000 switchmen at the height of the Christmas mailing rush in December.

If this case is disposed of by Wednesday, then the union will be required on that day to show why it should not be held in contempt for the current walkout.

The end-strike injunction issued during the December walkout still is in force.

In its contempt action the government is seeking the names of every worker who took part in the December walkout in an effort to show that absenteeism was limited almost exclusively to BRT members.

The union members claimed they failed to work because they were sick.

TALMADGE SEEKS

(Continued From Page One)

duced last week.

Talmadge newspaper feuds are nothing new in this State. The late Governor Eugene Talmadge made the term 'them lyin' newspapers' a household word in Georgia, and his son, Herman, took up the cry when he entered public life.

The present Governor also has been engaged in word battles with papers in Macon and Columbus. Some of the fiercest exchanges have been with Atlanta's two big dailies. Almost every debate in the Legislature hears some Administration lieutenant refer to Atlanta's "Ohio-owned, carpetbag press."

The monopoly bill was written to prevent control of any essential commodity, but specifically mentions publication, sale or distribution of newspapers. Senator Grady Rawls of Albany, Administration Senate floor leader, said it was designed to "curb newspaper monopolies" and added.

"Our Administration is on record against single ownership of newspapers."

Other cities where both newspapers are under one ownership are Savannah, Macon and Columbus. But the monopoly bill would not apply to them as it covers only contracts entered since adoption of the Georgia Constitution in 1945.

The bill authorizes the Attorney General, when directed by the Governor, to bring suit in the name of the State to dissolve monopolistic corporations. Courts would be required to terminate the status existing prior to the illegal contract.

The bill introduced by Twitty requires equal space for an official reply to charges of public or private misconduct or "any matter critical" of the official. The same privilege is given any "private person" charged with violating the law or any private misconduct."

Penalties of $1,000 for refusal to give equal space and prominence to reply to answer, plus $100 for each issue in which the answer is not printed, after request, are provided.

To reward informers for bringing suits under the act, one fourth of the penalty is given him, and "any person who may have knowledge of the facts" may bring suit. Also, a jury may assess punitive damages, all of which go to the informer.

Under the companion libel suit act introduced in the Senate, an informer could bring such a suit in any county where a paper has 50 subscribers.

Asked who would determine what constituted a charge of misconduct or criticism which would justify an answer, Twitty said "it might be necessary to set up a board of commission."

Such a commission — the Federal Communications Commission — he said, controls radio stations and it was the intent for the bill to put newspapers on the same basis as radio in regard to giving officials and individuals an opportunity to answer charges.

While concerning that the monopoly bill now would apply only to the Atlanta newspapers, Twitty declared the three bills were aimed at all newspapers; to "make 'em sere-

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